

REMARKS

Claims 25-45 are pending in the application and have been rejected.

Claim 1 herewith is amended by the addition of a comma and hyphens, to improve the clarity and grammar of the claims. Favorable reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested

The Examiner's comments together with the cited references have been carefully studied. Favorable reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Relying on 35 U.S.C. §102(b), the Examiner rejected claims 25-45 as being anticipated by Kronzer et al.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection, and requests reconsideration. Applicant respectfully submits that a rejection for lack of novelty under Section §102(b) requires that the invention must be identically disclosed or described in the reference. Applicant respectfully submits that important and material limitations of their invention as claimed are not disclosed in the reference. Applicant respectfully submits that Kronzer et al. do not disclose, teach, or suggest the use of a fusible ink-transporting layer over a fusible ink-receptive layer as required by claim 1. Further, Kronzer et al. require several porous layers between the ink-receptive layer and the support, contrary to the requirement of claim 1 that there is no porous ink-carrier-liquid-receptive layer between the ink-receptive layer and the support that is capable of receiving a substantial amount of ink carrier liquid after the ink carrier liquid has passed through the porous ink-receptive layer.

Kronzer et al. disclose an inkjet printable heat transfer paper, the improvement residing in the fact that the heat transfer material has cold release properties. The heat transfer paper has five layers, referred to as the first layer (cellulosic support), second layer (release layer), fifth layer (adhesion layer), third layer (transfer layer), and fourth layer (inkjet printable layer), in that order from the first layer, the cellulosic support. During heat transfer, the imaged top layer (the fourth layer) is placed against a fabric and heat transferred to the fabric, and the bottom two layers (the first and second layers) are removed, so that only the top three layers remain on the fabric, namely the fourth layer, the third layer, and the fifth layer.

In para. [0039], Kronzer et al. state that "a fourth layer is useful for a printable heat transfer material on which an image is to be placed by an ink jet printer." There is no layer above this fourth layer and, hence, no ink-transporting layer as required by the claim 1 of the present invention.

As taught by Kronzer et al., there are three layers between the support (layer 1) and the ink-receptive layer (layer 4), namely layers 3, 5, and 2. The layers 3 and 5, respectively, are fairly thick layers and comprise powdered thermoplastic particles, as stated respectively in para. [0032] and para. [0046]. Thus, these additional layers, between the ink-receiving layer and the support are capable of absorbing ink carrier liquid, contrary to the present invention.

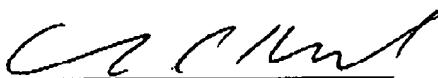
Finally Kronzer et al. fuse two layers below the ink-receiving layer 4, not any layer above the ink-receiving layer, contrary to the present invention.

Applicants have reviewed the prior art made of record and believe that singly or in any suitable combination, they do not render Applicants' claimed invention unpatentable.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendment, the claims are now believed allowable and such favorable action is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner consider that additional amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the favor is requested of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel for the purpose of discussing such amendments.

Respectfully submitted,



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